

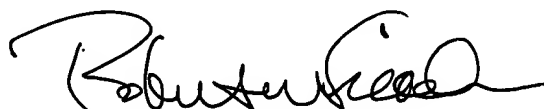
system (classified in class 429, subclass 34) for prosecution on the merits of the present application. Applicant hereby reserves the right to pursue non-elected Group I claims 1-14, which are drawn to method of humidifying a fluid stream using a membrane exchange apparatus (classified in class 95, subclass 52), and Group II claims 15-21, which are drawn to method for humidifying a reactant gas supply stream for a solid polymer fuel cell (classified in class 429, subclass 13), in separate continuing application(s) filed during the pendency of the present application.

The basis of the applicant's traversal of the above provisional election of Group III claims 22-38 is that the Group I and Group II method claims are sufficiently related in technical subject matter to the Group III system claims that the Group I and Group II claims could be readily searched and examined together with the elected Group III system claims.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the applicant's undersigned attorney at (312) 775-8123 if any unresolved matters remain concerning the present restriction requirement and election in response thereto.

Please charge any fees incurred in connection with this submission to Deposit Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert W. Fieseler
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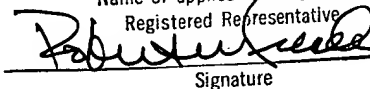
Telephone (312) 775-8000
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Dated: October 17, 2003

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D. C. 20231, on 10-17-03
Date of Deposit

ROBERT W. FIESELER

Name of applicant, assignee, or
Registered Representative



Signature

10-17-03

Date of Signature